

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

Moreover, in such an information recording/reproducing apparatus, it is desired to increase an information recording and reading speed, following an increase in density of information recording and an increase in capacity of the record information. For such a reason, an information recording/reproducing head having multiple probes or multiple cantilevers has been developed. According to such an information recording/reading head, it is possible to increase the information recording speed by applying information to be recorded to the multiple probes or multiple cantilevers at a time, and writing the information at a plurality of positions on the recording surface of the information recording medium at a time. Moreover, it is possible to increase the information reading speed, by reading information recorded at the plurality of positions on the recording surface of the information recording medium at a time, through the multiple probes ~~proves~~ or the multiple cantilevers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

Moreover, since a plurality of recording/reading elements are assigned to the same track, even if there arises ~~arise~~ a defect ~~defective~~ in production and a failure caused by deterioration over time in one portion of the recording/reading elements, it is possible to sufficiently record and read the information through another recording/reading element. Therefore, in the production of the information recording/reading head, even if there arises a defect ~~defective~~ in one portion of the recording/reading elements, this can be treated as a good product, as long as there is no problem in quality as a product due to the other normal information recording/reading elements. Therefore, it is possible to improve yields. Moreover, even if there arises a failure caused by deterioration over time in one

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portion of the recording/reading elements, the information recording/reproducing operation can be eventually performed without a hindrance in the end, as long as the other information recording/reading elements are normal. Therefore, it is possible to increase the durability of the information recording/reading head and extend its lifetime.